

US Must Stop Bombing Vietnam

SUC Demands Confiscation of All US Capital in India

On 23rd Decmber, last Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, in a statement issued to the Press had said.

"The massive, indiscriminate, dastardly bombing of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of Vietnam by the US imperialists, in which even hospitals and foreign missions were not spared, deserves not only protests and condemnations, however strongly worded these may be, but also calls for an immediate positive deterrent step against the USA on the part of all peace-loving states of the world. The Soviet Union, as the mightiest State in the Socialist Camp, has the greatest responsibility in this respect, and more so, because the Democratic Republic of Vietnam belongs to the family of Socialist Nations.

"We are observing painfully that while the Soviet Union should have treated the attack on a Socialist State as an attack on the Socialist Camp as a whole, and so, on the Soviet Union itself, the Soviet leaders have

failed deplorably to live up to this noble socialist motto.

"The Indian Government also, has not only failed to honour the aspirations of the freedom-loving people of India by refusing to recognise the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, but also, on the face of such repeated dastardly bombing of Vietnam by the USA it has failed to honour the demand of the Indian people to sever all diplomatic ties with the USA and confiscate all US funds and capital in India.

"We call upon the freedom-loving people of India to build up effective public opinion in support of these demands and compel the Government of India to cut-off diplomatic ties with the USA and confiscate all US funds and capital in India unless the USA immediately stops bombing of Vietnam once for all."

Congress Session at Bidhannagar Held by Plundering Govt. Resources

The Seventy-fourth Session of the Congress has brought with it the end of the last remains of administrative neutrality in West Bengal. The ruling party has behaved so notoriously that for all practical purposes it appeared to be the Government itself. The process of destroying administrative neutrality, which started long before with frequent abuse of administrative power by Congress bosses, here and there, and hastened since the last general elections, has gathered further momentum, during the preparation of the Congress session venue at the Salt Lake and during the days of the session. The party has completely swallowed up the Administration.

The naked, shameless usurpation of administrative power and resources reached its zenith when almost all State departments of West Bengal and other State Governments were made to hire a stall each at the Bidhannagar exhibition site with Rent—Re/- per square feet, or, Rs. 5,000 for 5,000 sq.

ft. area. Government departments renting Government land to fill the coffers of the Congress party!

And why should not they! Only a few days ago, ads in local newspapers asked parties intending to hire stalls at Bidhannagar to contact "Minister Jainal Abedin" "at

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DIR Applied on W. Bengal Press Workers' Strike

(By a Staff Reporter)

On 23rd December last, the West Bengal Government by applying the D.I.R. had declared the West Bengal Press Workers' strike which was held recently as illegal.

Organised under the auspices of Press Workers *Yukta Sangram Committee* about forty thousand employees working in the different Press in West Bengal were carrying out a continuous strike on a forty point demand peacefully and with an unprecedented success. The Congress Government in West Bengal had, however, in naked subservience to the interest of the employers had applied the D.I.R. against the strike launched by the Press Workers declaring it as illegal. The Government had turned down all the demands voiced by the Press Workers and unilaterally accepted Rs. 16/- as ad-interim relief against the minimum of Rs. 50/- demanded by the Press Workers. The *Yukta Sangram Committee* of the Press Workers had naturally felt that this D.I.R. application was meant for basically serving the interest of the employers. Com. Fatick Ghosh, Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) had strongly condemned the arbitrary manner in which the Government had resorted to the D.I.R. in order to frustrate the legitimate struggle of the Press Workers declaring it as illegal. Com. Ghosh also strongly protested against the Government's move to curtail

the democratic rights of the workers on an increasing scale with the help of Black Acts and Ordinances and demanded immediate withdrawal of D.I.R. The different central trade unions and mass organisations similarly expressed condemning this application of D.I.R.

Under the circumstances, the *Yukta Sangram Committee* at a meeting of the Press workers held on 26th December last had declared its decision to lift the strike. In this meeting, Com. Sushil Aich, the Asstt. General Secretary of Calcutta Press Workers Union and a leader of Press Workers *Yukta Sangram Committee* had said that although the Government had for the first time used the DIR against the legitimate struggle of the Press Workers, still it should be noted with great concern that the Government was bent upon inflicting mounting attack with greater frequency against the future democratic struggles of the workers. He called upon all sections of the working population and the democratic-minded people to wage an united sustained struggle for the immediate repeal of the DIR. The meeting was addressed by other leaders also.

CPI'S Self-Contradiction Manifest in Kalantar Editorials

Recently two editorials under the caption "American lobby vocal" and "New character of the Indian Monopoly capital" have been published in the Kalantar, the Bengali organ of the CPI. If these two articles are considered together one must come to the conclusion through Marxist-Leninist way of thinking that the characterisation of the Indian state, the formulation of the strategy and tactics of Indian revolution, the nature of main contradiction in the Indian society etc. as formulated by the CPI are wholly erroneous.

The undivided CPI of the past considered and three fractions like the CPI, CPI(M) and the CPI(ML) formed later on through the division of the undivided CPI, still consider the Indian revolution as anti-imperialist and anti-feudal. All these three parties consider imperialism and feudalism as the main enemy and not the national bourgeoisie. According to them, national bourgeoisie are ally forces of the workers and peasants in their anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution.

We have been consistently fighting against this erroneous formulation regarding the strategy of the Indian revolution, formulated by the undivided CPI and dittoed by the present CPI, CPI (M) and the CPI (ML), notwithstanding differences in their vocabulary, since the inception of our Party. Through various writings in the different organs of our Party it has been conclusively shown that these parties because of their non-working class character have failed to correctly analyse the Indian situation on the anvil of Marxism-Leninism. Through a detailed analysis of the Indian situation it has been shown that despite the existence of feudal oppression and the influence of foreign capital in Indian economy, the dominant feature in the Indian society is the contradiction between the capitalist class and the working class. Indian economy is essentially a capitalist economy and the national bourgeoisie are in state power and this is why the stage of Indian revolution is anti-capitalist, socialist revolution.

Now being confronted with the reality, the C.P.I. has to accept the analysis of the S.U.C.I. regarding the Indian economy though the C.P.I. did not refer our Party in accepting our formulation. But it is due to the non-working class character of the C.P.I. it has failed to conclude logically from this analysis that the Indian revolution is anti-capitalist, socialist revolution.

In the Kalantar, the Bengali organ of the C.P.I. it is stated:—"Again on the other hand, the Indian monopoly capitalists are exporting the finance capital in countries like, England, America, West Germany etc. and in other developing and under-developed countries and are setting up industries either independently or in collaboration with the monopolies of these countries. 140 such cases for either joint collaboration or for independent ventures have been approved. This is the new feature of the monopoly capital of India. The monopolies are entering the world capitalist market with this new characteristic. They are demanding to the respective governments against the nationalisation of industries. As the Government of India has been pursuing the capitalist path, the strength of the monopoly capital has increased and this capital with the acquisition of the new characteristic is making entry in the world capitalist market. The monopoly capitalists of India have become members of the International Trust and Cartel. This is dangerous not only for India but also for those

countries where the Indian finance capital has penetrated". (Kalantar, dated 12.12.72).

This is copied by the C.P.I. from the analysis of the S.U.C.I.; but the C.P.I. has not given recognition that it is the consistent view of the S.U.C.I. This is sheer plagiarism.

To a Marxist-Leninist, it is clear that a country which is exporting finance capital after the formation of monopoly capital within the country and which has become a partner of International Trust and Cartel has attained the highest peak of capitalist development and has acquired the imperialist character.

Lenin termed the imperialist stage in the development of capitalism as the decadent stage and the eve of socialist revolution. In his book "Imperialism—the highest stage of capitalism", Lenin has shown that there are two distinct historical trends in the growth, development and maturity of capitalism in a particular country. Initially capitalism struggles against all national oppression for the formation of a nation through building up of a nationalist movement. And then capitalism breaks the national boundary to bring about an international coalescence of capital, politics, science etc. Both these trends of capitalism are universal. The former trend is seen during the initial period of the growth of capitalism whereas the latter trend is seen when capitalism has attained maturity and the society is moving towards socialist transformation.

Both these trends are clearly observable in the development of Indian capitalism. Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the leader and teacher of our Party and one of the greatest Marxist thinkers of this age showed through his brilliant analysis how during the initial period of British rule the mercantile capital

which would have naturally developed as industrial capital, could not grow and this mercantile community was transformed into the compradore class who worked as agents of the British firms in this country and then a section of this compradore bourgeoisie was gradually transformed into the national bourgeoisie with the accumulation of capital and the national capital began to form. With the formation of national capital nationalist movement within the country began to grow and the present monopoly capitalists like the Tatas, the Birlas, supported the national bourgeois leadership through the Congress as it served the national bourgeoisie. It is due to the compromise of the national bourgeois leadership of the Congress with the British imperialists that the national independence was achieved and the national bourgeoisie was enthroned in state power of the country.

Com. Ghosh also showed in the same book "why SUC is the only Communist Party in India" that not only monopoly capitalism has developed but India has acquired imperialist character also. Com. Ghosh pointed out to those who considered the Indian capitalists as the agents of the imperialists that had the character of Indian monopoly capital been that of an agent to imperialism, Indian monopoly capitalists would never have been partner of International Trust and Cartel.

In the Kalantar, the organ of the CPI, it has been admitted that the Indian monopoly capital has acquired a new character by joining the organisation of international monopoly capital. Though the Kalantar did not clearly mention what this new character is, it must be admitted by a true Marxist-Leninist that this new character is nothing but imperialist character. If

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CPI MUST SHUN THE COMPANY OF CONGRESS

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this be so, the CPI must discard its thesis about the strategy of Indian revolution and accept the analysis of the SUCI regarding the Indian revolution as anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

The rank and file of the CPI should seriously ponder over this question and convince the leadership that the search for progressive section of the national bourgeoisie is futile as no such progressive section exists. The Indira Congress is not at all progressive; on the contrary, by raising the so-called radical slogans the Indira Congress is really serving the aggregate interest of monopoly capitalism and laying the foundation of fascism in India. The Congress Government is the protector of the Indian state which has already acquired imperialist character. So it is natural that Indira Congress will protect the interests of monopoly capitalists. But the CPI which admits that India has acquired imperialist character is still terming the internal and foreign policy of the Congress as progressive and so the Kalantar, the Bengali organ of the CPI, thinks that the recent statement of Swaran Singh, the Union Foreign Minister that there is no fundamental difference in the interest of India and the USA in this country or in other part, is due to the pressure of American lobby within this country. The CPM also suffers from such misconception and in its Central Committee meeting in Chandigarh the CPM has termed the foreign policy of India as mainly anti-imperialist. But this is a sheer misconception. In explaining the foreign policy of India Com. Ghosh said that neither

the pro-imperialist policy of India is a sign of India being a satellite to imperialism nor the anti-imperialist stand due to economic reason is the sign of progressiveness of India Government. According to Com. Ghosh both these roles are due to complex contradictions between the growing imperialist country and other already developed imperialist countries. The primary aim of India's foreign policy is to strengthen and consolidate the Indian monopolists so that they can make room in the international market through competition. The USA stopped aid to India and supported Pakistan on the Bangla Desh issue and this was why Indira Congress was against the USA. But we predicted that the moment the USA will change its policy on India and resume military and other aid, the policy of Indira Government will also be reversed. But the CPI and CPI(M) did not understand it and so they mistook the anti-U.S. role of India centering round the Bangladesh issue as progressive. This is due to the non-working class world outlook of these parties. It is the SUCI which is consistently telling the people that the Indira Gandhi Government like the other predecessor Congress Governments has been pursuing such internal and foreign policy that ultimately helps the monopoly capitalists in India. The CPI which thinks that Indira Congress has a progressive section within its fold, is now in self contradiction on being confronted with reality. Will the cadres of the CPI pause and ponder and compel the leadership to change its suicidal policy of supporting the Congress and thus helping the establishment of fascism in India?

Proposed Industrial Relations Bill Further Curtails Workers' Democratic Rights

Although detailed provisions of the proposed Industrial Relations Bill have not been circulated even to the Central Trade Unions, by the Union Labour Ministry, it is no longer a secret that the whole intention of the Indira Government at the Centre, is to introduce the measure straight away in the Parliament, in the next session, without referring it to the Trade union leaders so that they may be caught unawares.

Sensing this motive of the Government, Comrade Fatick Ghose, Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) wrote a letter on 6th December to Sri R. K. Khadilkar, Union Labour Minister. In the said letter, Comrade Fatick Ghose had said:

"Having noted that the proposed Industrial Relations Bill is going to be moved and enacted in the ensuing session of the Parliament, which will, no doubt, have far-reaching impact and effect on the Trade Union movement and working class of the country, the All India Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) feels that all the Central Trade Union organisations, irrespective of being recognised by the Government or not, should be given an opportunity to discuss and place their respective viewpoints before your Ministry, prior to the Bill becoming a law".

Comrade Ghose has also demanded circulation of the draft Bill before the proposed meeting. As the proposed Bill will have to depend for its success on the co-operation of the Central Trade Unions, Comrade Ghose urged upon the Government to accept this most just suggestion. The Union Labour Minister uptill now, has not found time to respond to this letter.

Comrade Fatick Ghose, in the capacity of being a member of the West Bengal State Labour Advisory Committee has also addressed a letter to the State Labour Minister who is also the Chairman of the said Committee, proposing an immediate meeting of the S.L.A.C. to thrash out (i) the entire

question relating to application of DIR against legitimate trade union movement in general and its particular application against the 40,000 Press Workers' Strike in the State and (ii) the proposed amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act and the Indian Trade Union Act as pronounced by the State Labour Minister to the Press.

Incidentally, despite keeping the provisions of the Industrial Relations Bill, a closely guarded secret by the Central Government, whatever little informations have trickled through various newspaper reports, bring out the simple truth that the Indira Government, after bidding time for a year or so, has now made up its mind to gag legitimate trade union movements altogether. A few examples will suffice to bring home this truth.

Let us judge the provision relating to categorisation of certain "unfair practices" which include "any coercive method for settlement of disputes, work-to-rule, go-slow and demonstration before the houses of employer or managerial staff." If any of these so-called unfair practices occurs in any establishment then the employers would have the right, as per this wonderful piece of legislation, to de-recognise a union. What remains then as a form of legitimate trade union struggle for the workers? To chant the hymns of holy scriptures or Ram-dhoons!

But this is not all; even the Unions are to be dictated by this legislation to

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How Congress Is Handling Land Problems as Viewed by its Partner the CPI

Our party has been consistently warning against the fake socialism of the Congress and cautioning that the Congress has been serving aggregate interest of monopoly capitalism in India. But the CPI was not of the same opinion and according to them the Congress has progressive role. But the way the Congress is tackling the land problems and the industrial policy pursued by the Congress compelled the CPI to make some terse comments.

Our party has been alleging that the Congress is serving the big land owners to the detriment of the interest of the small farmers and the poor and landless peasants. But the CPI did not pay any heed to our allegations at that time; but now when the Congress is not sparing its present partner in PDA in West Bengal, in helping eviction of the bargadars and forcefully harvesting the crops of the poor peasants, the CPI has been forced to denounce these activities. A few illustrative quotations from the organs of the CPI, the partner of the Congress in the Progressive Democratic Alliance, will show how the Congress, inspite of its such tempting slogans like 'Garibi hatao' is really serving the big land owners.

A report published in the Kalantar, the Bengali organ of the CPI dated the 19th November 1972 states:—"we have received information from different places that the Jotedars are preparing for forcibly harvesting the crops of the peasants and this has been brought to the notice of the Government. The Jotedars have started their game even before the paddy is fully ripe. The Jotedar of Methura village in Jhargram has looted the paddy in 11 bighas of land belonging to Com. Jagannath Rana, a peasant leader and a communist worker..... In many police stations in Midnapore and in different localities of Birbhum the peasants are falsely implicated in legal proceedings. The local police officers are issuing warrents of arrests on the basis of the cases which were initiated

three years back. The Jotedars have lowered the rate of daily wages of the Khet-Mazdoors and if they protested against this injustice, section 108 is imposed on the false allegation of looting. The local administration, the police and the Jotedars have combined together."

Again in a speech delivered at Khet-Mazdoor Union meeting Sri Gopal Banerji, the Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of the CPI expressed deep indignation at the sliding back of the Congress all over India in implementing the promises in regard to land and the industrial policy. The text of this speech was published in Kalantar dated the 20th November 1972.

In another report published in Kalantar dated 21st November 1972 it is stated: "The harvesting has not yet started in full swing; but the attack on the peasants of Midnapore District has begun. The Jotedars are forcibly harvesting with guns and they are backed by police and administration. To those Sub-divisional officers posted at Midnapore Sadar, the police order is sacrosanct and these officers are arranging police protection to the Jotedars only on the prayer of the police. Neither the Jotedars nor the police nor these officials are abiding by the decisions arrived at in all-party conference. Besides, the police is reviving the criminal cases of the last year and obstructing the peasants from harvesting the paddy through innumerable warrents."

"On 18th November last, the local Jotedars, Raipada

Jana of Amtalia, Malaya Sashmal, Pulin Das of Sundupara, Abesh Samanta, Anil Samanta of Amtalia, along with 150 men of Nandan Dey, another Jotedar, came with five guns in Barh Chandiveti, the village of Deshapran Biren Sashmal and forcibly harvested the paddy in about 40 bighas of land, which was cultivated by landless Muslim peasants. The Jotedars began to mobilise more men in the afternoon and created communal tension. This incident has been reported to the District Magistrate and the Additional Secretary of the Home Department of the Government of West Bengal. ...On the same day, the landless peasants Sadhu Das, Balai Murmu and others who cultivated the Govtment Khas land in Datan thana area, began to harvest after duly informing the JLRO and the local Thana. The OC along with four armed police allowed the paddy to be brought in the farm of Rajen Das, a local Jotedar and asked the peasants not to harvest the paddy any further. Police helped to bring the paddy of Raghu Murmu in the farm of Vrigu Ram Giri, a Jotedar of Palsandapur.

"In the same Datan Thana area, the landless peasants of Mouza Gourda and Rangsachia were cultivating the government land which was allotted to them by the J.L.R.O. The peasants were harvesting the paddy after duly informing the authority. Yesterday Jotedars Umesh Bhunia, Raghunath Bhunia and others along with 5 or 6 armed police of the Thana asked the peasants not to harvest the paddy and carried away the harvested paddy in the farm of the Jotedars. Now with the help of police, the paddy of those lands is being harvested by the hired men of the Jotedars and brought in the farm of the Jotedars....

"Baneshwar Bera, Khagen Patra, Karu Patra, Tapan Handu etc. the landless peasants and the sharecroppers of village Ambi-

Bati Taki in block no. 2 Anchal No. 7 in Kharagpur were arrested at 11.30 P. M. on 18.11.72. These peasants were cultivating about 4 acres of land which were recovered from benami possession since 1969 and lodged a complaint about the benami land; but no hearing for the said complaint has yet been made. The J.L.R.O. and the local thana were informed of the recovery of the land. The peasants began to harvest from 16.11.72. Though there was no injunction or other prohibitory order, the police seized the harvested paddy and stored in the room of one Pulin Dey. The reason for keeping the paddy in the room of Pulin Dey is that Niranjan Das and Manoranjan Das, all local Jotedars are taking all these oppressive measures in collusion with the local police".

In the issue of Kalantar dated the 25th November 1972, reports of attacks by Jotedars on bargadars in different localities have been flushed. It is stated:—"On 18th November last, the sons of Jotedars forcibly harvested the paddy of Lakshmiram Hansda, a share-cropper. When Lakshmiram offered resistance, the miscreants threatened him with guns. When the police was contacted they expressed their inability to do anything unless the local J. L. R. O. reported the matter...A similar incident took place in the village Malibandi. The paddy of Rana Kishore Mondal has been looted. On information the J. L. R. O. went for inspection, but the Jotedar's men brought the looted paddy in their houses. The police was informed but no action was taken."

Another incident reported on the same date states, "Four militant peasant workers of Mongalpara village were arrested on false charges. The Jotedar belonging to the Kolay family complained to the police against these peasants for theft. Two other militant workers of peasant movement in the village Kiamacha were also

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Fake Sympathy of Congress for the Poor Peasantry

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arrested on the same charge. It is learnt that many warrants of arrests against many share croppers and Khet Mazdoors are pending.

"The oppression of the Jotedars has started in the Fazilpur Anchal under Deganga P. S. in 24-Parganas. Sudhir Biswas, a Jotedar, forcibly harvested the paddy of Chamchul Huq and Mozumbel Huq with the help of C.R.P. and a batch of anti-social elements. When the share-croppers offered resistance the Jotedar mercilessly beat them with the help of C.R.P. The police arrested Mozumbel Huq, Golam Hossain and 5 or 6 others. On information Hafizur Rahaman of Deganga Anchal and Tulsi Ghose, a local leader strongly protested against the police atrocities.

"Later on the second officer of Deganga Thana along with a contingent of police force appeared on the scene and without paying any heed to the complaints of the share croppers, the police arrested them all and seized the paddy."

Another daring incident of Jotedar firing on the workers of the C.P.I. was flushed in the Kalantar, dated 1st December 1972. In this incident Santu Mahato, a leader of the Bihar State Council of the C.P.I., along with seven other peasants were dead as a result of firing by Jotedars of the village Selubelia under the district of Darbhanga.

In an editorial comment under the caption "More categorical pronouncement necessary" published in the Kalantar dated the 27th November 1972, it was shown how the Congress was serving the interests of the Jotedars. It is stated in the said comment:—"The Chief Minister of State said to the reporters at Siliguri that he who cultivated the land, would be the owner of the crop and in case of any

dispute status quo would be maintained until settled by the concerned advisory committee. The words are, indeed, good. But the vested interest in land of the party and the police did not care to abide by this policy.

"The reports of forcible harvesting in Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Bankura, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur etc. by the Jotedars, anti-social elements, a section of the Congress in collusion with police administration are not only published in this paper alone but even in the so-called largely circulated nationalist papers also. Two people were dead in Midnapore and Bankura. In many cases, bows, swords, lathis besides guns and rifles were freely used. In every case, the police is either directly siding with the Jotedars in looting the paddy or helping the Jotedars, the powerful side by remaining silent spectator.

"Under the circumstances, the policy statement of the Chief Minister, regarding the role of police, should have been clear and definite. A few philosophical utterances are of no value to the police department which grew with the mentality of serving the propertied class."

That the Congress is giving lip service to socialism and really serving the vested interest has been said in an editorial comment in the Kalantar dated 1st December 1972. It was stated:—"The front ranking leaders like the Chief Minister, Sri Sidhartha Sankar Ray, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, the West Bengal Congress President etc. are unequivocally declaring that during harvesting the Congress will stand by the side of the peasants. But peasants of different localities who were once assured by the speeches of the leaders find themselves in helpless condition. Recently one such incident happened in Cooch Behar.

HARYANA

SUC Condemns Govt.'s Attack on College Teachers

Com. Gian Singh Choudhury, Secretary, Haryana State Organising Committee of the S.U.C.I. had released the following statement to the Press on 12th December last. The State Organising Committee of the S.U.C.I. met and considered the situation arising out of the arrests of the college teachers peacefully conducting their struggle since 10th Nov., 1972.

"The latest and deliberate intervention of the State Government in favour of the vested interests by arresting the college teachers peacefully conducting their democratic struggle is most reprehensible and provocative. This, once again, shows its fascist character always ready to serve the interests of the capitalist class and violate even the most elementary democratic and civil rights of the citizens in struggle.

"We have every hope that all the democratic and Left forces in the State including the valiant college

teachers in struggle and the student community will rise to the occasion and find ways to fight out unitedly the growing onslaught of the ruling class and its subserving autocratic clique in the State. To strengthen the democratic struggle of these teachers is the call of the hour. All the efforts of the Government to sidetrack the issue and create fissures among the working people should be exposed and fought out to safeguard the democratic interest of all sections of the toiling people including the teachers and the students in the State."

A Glimpse of Congress Way to Socialism

According to a recent estimate the consumer has to pay 13% more for cereals than he did last year, 10% more for pulses, 40% more for eggs and almost 100% more for sugar. This is, over and above, the 8% increase in price line as per the official figure during the preceeding year.

The **Hindusthan Times** reported from Delhi on 28th December last that the food grain prices continued their sharp rise during 1972 with pulses rising from 19% to 129%, rice by 25% to 37% and wheat by 18% to 20%.

In face of such sharp rise in prices of essential food grains the plight of the common people can be easily gauged, more so particularly, when, according to Lok Sabha proceedings, the all India figure for people living below poverty line are 44.57% in rural areas and 51.34% in urban areas.

"During the last UF regime the peasants of the village Chota Duder Kuti seized the land of Jotedar, held illegally, and have been cultivating the land since then. Suddenly that Jotedar and some local Congress workers attacked the peasants and demanded that since that land was recovered during the UF rule, it was to be given back during the present Congress rule. Curiously, those Jotedars and their agents never claimed that land during the seizure of the land by the peasants either in thana, Bhagchas Court or to JLRO. Now these people with the help of police

and administration are attempting to dislodge the legal owner of the land forcibly.

"If no decision is implemented, the peasants are not ready to hear the speeches only. So without building up a united resistance of the peasants and the democratic forces against this onslaught, no other way exists."

The way the Congress is handling the land problem is amply clear from a few illustrative quotations from the Kalantar, the Bengali mouth-piece of the C.P.I., the partner of Congress in the P.D.A.

Ruling Party Plundered Public Money

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the Writers' Buildings," for the purpose. When the Minister's attention was drawn to this naked use of his ministerial office for his party purpose he reportedly replied that it was not meant to use his office but to locate the proper person. Unique! Even the Statesman had to comment, "This is an example of how the distinction between the Congress and the Government is progressively getting blurred..... Even during the United Congress days such display of identity would have been inconceivable though even then Governments tended to be more than partial to the party." (22.12.72).

No, they never use their office for party purpose unless it is unavoidable. And that happened only once, when the Housing Department, Chief Engineer Mr. Samaddar was reportedly instructed, in presence of PWD Minister Mr. Bhola Sen himself by none else than the Chief Minister Mr. S. S. Ray and the PCC General Secretary, Mr. Dashmunshi, to complete the construction of 250 flats for Congress delegates at Bidhannagar at the earliest, by making his men work, if necessary, round-the-clock. The feeble opposition of the Chief Engineer, who reportedly pointed out the huge extra cost (about 20% more than the normal valuation) the department would have to incur for this, was summarily dismissed by the Chief Minister who ordered him to see that the works get completed by any means within time.

Services of the State Transport, the Railways, the Police, the Post and Telegraphs and even the Army were secured freely. Supply of power, telecommunications, food and milk showed signs of such abundance as would make one believe that we have, at last,

really reached the threshold of that much vaunted "Indira Socialism".

The arrangements for the comfort of the delegates were not lacking either. Public Health Engineering Department engineers were employed to erect a hot-water reservoir with 24 connections. Hot water was being supplied day and night. The boiler for this purpose was also erected by PHED engineers. Health Department was engaged to build a modern hospital at the site for which also the cost had to be borne by the Government. Squandering of public money reached unbelievable proportions. Wall murals inside PM's cottage cost Rs. 250 per squarefoot when the normal market rate is Rs. 50/sft. Rate per sq. foot of plinth area cost the Exchequer Rs. 200 in place of the usual rate of Rs. 40 to 45 for 'A' class construction. Besides, for P.M.'s residence for a few days Rs. 75,000/- was spent on furniture, Rs. 35,000/- on bedding, about Rs. 12,000/- on gardening and Rs. 65,000/- for that temporary piece of architecture with thatched roof over concrete slab, and other useless expenditures—according to a reliable source. No doubt, all these were incurred to strengthen the 'socialist' image of 'progressive' Sm. Indira Gandhi. The beneficiaries of this 'socialist' feat namely, the contractors, engineers and of course, some Congress men had their real heyday with every bit of construction bringing fabulous profits at the cost of Government exchequer.

It was only natural that six thousand five hundred uniformed police personnels and a few thousands more of plain-clothes men were put at the service of the ruling bosses. Hundreds of government cars and vehicles, bearing "for emergency use" stickers were placed at the disposal of the

party bosses, some of which were found, it is reported, carrying visitor delegates from outside states to Dakshineswar and Kalighat. Perhaps this is one reason why not more than 150 of the total 682 delegates could be attending the session at a time. Newsmen spotted prison vans brining sumptuous dinner packets from Grand Hotel for the privileged among the delegates while dozens of young hungry volunteers raided the Press Camp at Bidhannagar in search of food.

But what crowned all was the naked and shameless use of the Army personnels to construct roads and bridges at Bidhannagar. Services of the Army were requisitioned, no body knows under what authority, to quicken the pace of construction.

No words are strong enough to condemn such gross abuse of power as the ruling Congress Party has shown during the last few weeks.

We voiced our strongest opposition to the abuse of administrative power by the CPI(M) during the UF days. At that time the Congress leaders, including Mrs. Gandhi, have never failed to use it as the strongest weapon in their vociferous tirade against the CPI(M). But now they have no hesitation to bury their scruples and use the governmental power and resources for their own narrow, sectarian party interest. All democratic-minded citizens must unite to resist this menacing trend.

Com. Shew Shankar Released on Bail

Com. Shew Shankar, Secretary, Muzaffarpur District Committee of SUCI, Bihar, after being detained for four months, was released on bail on order of Patna High Court on 13th December last. The police arrested Com. Shew Shankar by charging him as a "Naxalite" on 24th August last.

Proposed Industrial Relations Bill

(Contd. from page 3)
"negotiate with employers in good faith."

This is even too-much for Sri Dange or Sri Mahesh Desai, the A.I.T.U.C and HMS leaders. They could not swallow this 'Black Act' of the Government. So, the bubble of National Council of Trade Unions with INTUC bursts. For A.I.T.U.C. and H.M.S. leaders, the choice is now very clear. Either to side with this 'progressive' character of the Indira Government or to exist in the gallant fight of resistance of the working people that is to be developed.

But then, we have not exhausted the list; one more instance. The Registrar of Trade Unions will be empowered, it is said, by this enactment to interfere in the internal affair of Trade Unions and unilaterally refer any dispute among Union's members or office-bearers to a court.

A few words in passing. We cannot but note even from these fragmentary reportings that the Government of India, in framing this legislation have simply accepted in substance the idea of controlled Trade Unions as recently suggested by Mr. Tata, a top monopolist of the country. Another marked feature is the Government's unusual haste to ride roughshod over the minimum democratic norms to bring these outrageous provisions into the Statute book.

The working class of this country now face this challenging situation. The Government is trying to be armed with this most fascistic measure to throttle the minimum democratic Trade Union rights in the face of mounting exploitation of capital. The challenge will have to be met squarely by the working people by building up a massive united struggle throughout the length and breadth of the country.